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Sen. McManus calls on governor to fill economic void left by Baldwin prison closure

LANSING – Sen. Michelle McManus on Wednesday called on the governor to help Lake County find a new economic base to replace the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility after its funding was cut from the state budget.

McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, spoke out about the governor's announcement that she is deploying a rapid-response team of economic development specialists to the community Thursday:

"This is too little, too late. The bottom line is the governor decided to close the Baldwin prison in March, and she never looked back. The governor had months to work with the prison and the residents of Lake County to help them deal with her action, but she didn't lift a finger until now. Had she sent those rapid responders to the community in the spring, Lake County might have been better prepared to weather this economic storm."

"I challenge the governor to personally visit Lake County and explain her decision to the hardworking men and women there. Further, I request that her economic development team remain on the ground in Lake County until a suitable economic base is found to fill the void left by the prison."

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Broadcast-quality audio of McManus' statement is available on the Senate Majority Multimedia Link at <http://senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/mcmanus/index.htm>.